

The following are lesson featured on TED-Ed. You can create lessons from scratch around any YouTube video to “flip” your class and help jumpstart classroom discussions. Please preview the lessons and see if you find them suitable for your school community’s values. I encourage you to take the [TED-ED TOUR](#) prior to viewing any of the following lessons. If you like the lessons, please think about making your own: [CREATE A TED-ED LESSON](#).

Human Origins in Africa through the Neolithic Age

[Digging for humanity's origins - Louise Leakey](#)

Louise Leakey asks, "Who are we?" The question takes her to the Rift Valley in Eastern Africa, where she digs for the evolutionary origins of humankind -- and suggests a stunning new vision of our competing ancestors.

[Urbanization and the evolution of cities across 10,000 years - Vance Kite](#)

About 10,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers, aided by rudimentary agriculture, moved to semi-permanent villages and never looked back. With further developments came food surpluses, leading to commerce, specialization and, many years later with the Industrial Revolution, the modern city. Vance Kite plots our urban past and how we can expect future cities to adapt to our growing populations.

Mesopotamia

Ancient Egypt

[The pharaoh that wouldn't be forgotten - Kate Narev](#)

Hatshepsut was a female pharaoh during the New Kingdom in Egypt. Twenty years after her death, somebody smashed her statues, took a chisel and attempted to erase the pharaoh’s name and image from history. But who did it? And why? Kate Narev investigates Hatshepsut's history for clues to this ancient puzzle.

Ancient India

[Mysteries of vernacular: Zero - Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel](#)

Though the first written number system can be dated back to 2500 years ago in Mesopotamia, a zero-like symbol did not appear until 7th century CE India. Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel track the evolution of zero from a dot to the symbol we use today, as well as the Arabic, Italian and French roots of the word.

[A Rosetta Stone for the Indus script - Rajesh Rao](#)

Rajesh Rao is fascinated by "the mother of all crossword puzzles" - how to decipher the 4000 year old Indus script. At TED 2011, he tells how he is enlisting modern computational techniques to read the Indus language, the key piece to understanding this ancient civilization.

Ancient China

[The Silk Road: Connecting the ancient world through trade - Shannon Harris Castelo](#)

With modern technology, a global exchange of goods and ideas can happen at the click of a button. But what about 2,000 years ago? Shannon Harris Castelo unfolds the history of the 5,000-mile Silk Road, a network of multiple routes that used the common language of commerce to connect the world's major settlements, thread by thread.

Ancient Israel

Ancient Greece

[How simple ideas lead to scientific discoveries - Adam Savage](#)

Adam Savage walks through two spectacular examples of profound scientific discoveries that came from simple, creative methods anyone could have followed -- Eratosthenes' calculation of the Earth's circumference around 200 BC and Hippolyte Fizeau's measurement of the speed of light in 1849.

[Music and creativity in Ancient Greece - Tim Hansen](#)

You think you love music? You have nothing on the Ancient Greek obsession. Every aspect of Greek life was punctuated by song: history, poetry, theater, sports and even astronomy. In fact, music was so important to Greek philosopher Plato that he claimed the music we listen to directly affects our ethics. Tim Hansen wonders what Plato might have to say about the music we listen to today.

[How taking a bath led to Archimedes' Principle - Mark Salata](#)

Stories of discovery and invention often begin with a problem that needs solving. Summoned by the king to investigate a suspicious goldsmith, the early Greek mathematician Archimedes stumbles on the principle that would make him famous.

[What is Zeno's Dichotomy Paradox? - Colm Kelleher](#)

Can you ever travel from one place to another? Ancient Greek philosopher Zeno of Elea gave a convincing argument that all motion is impossible - but where's the flaw in his logic? Colm Kelleher illustrates how to resolve Zeno's Dichotomy Paradox.

[The 2,400-year search for the atom - Theresa Doud](#)

How do we know what matter is made of? The quest for the atom has been a long one, beginning 2,400 years ago with the work of a Greek philosopher and later continued by a Quaker and a few Nobel Prize-winning scientists. Theresa Doud details the history of atomic theory.

[Mysteries of vernacular: Clue - Jessica Oreck](#)

Clue or clew? Before the word clue became associated with mystery novels, it meant a ball of string or thread, a definition dating back to Greek mythology. Jessica Oreck unravels this mystery of the vernacular.

[Dark matter: The matter we can't see - James Gillies](#)

The Greeks had a simple and elegant formula for the universe: just earth, fire, wind, and water. Turns out there's more to it than that -- a lot more. Visible matter (and that goes beyond the four Greek elements) comprises only 4% of the universe. CERN scientist James Gillies tells us what accounts for the remaining 96% (dark matter and dark energy) and how we might go about detecting it.

Ancient Rome[The great conspiracy against Julius Caesar - Kathryn Tempest](#)

On March 15th, 44 BCE, Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of about 60 of his own senators. Why did these self-titled Liberators want him dead? And why did Brutus, whose own life had been saved by Caesar, join in the plot? Kathryn Tempest investigates the personal and political assassination of Julius Caesar.

[Mysteries of vernacular: Sarcophagus - Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel](#)

Dating back to the early Roman Empire, the word sarcophagus originally referred to the limestone a coffin was made of, rather than the coffin itself. From flesh-eating stone to a stone coffin, Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel unbury the sarcophagus.

[A glimpse of teenage life in ancient Rome - Ray Laurence](#)

Welcome to the world of Lucius Popidius Secundus, a 17-year old living in Rome in 73 AD. His life is a typical one of arranged marriages, coming-of-age festivals, and communal baths. Take a look at this exquisitely detailed lesson on life of a typical Roman teenager two thousand years ago.

[Four sisters in Ancient Rome - Ray Laurence](#)

How did the young, wealthy women of Ancient Rome spend their days? Meet Domitia and her sister Domitia and her sister Domitia and her sister Domitia. Ray Laurence sketches the domestic life of leisure that these young girls lived, despite little recorded information on women from this otherwise well-documented era.

[Mysteries of vernacular: Inaugurate - Jessica Oreck](#)

From avian omens to the beginning of a new policy or the reign of a new politician, Jessica Oreck follows the flight path of the word inaugurate.